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Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
OMB-01 ACDA-12 /079 W
----------093823 170127Z /14
R 160115Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3365
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT MORESBY 0896

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PP, ID
SUBJECT: PNG STEPS UP BORDER PATROLS

1. PRESS REPORTED JUNE 12 ANNOUNCEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER SOMARE THAT A PNG DF RECONNAISANCE PATROL WOULD BE DEPLOYED ALONG NORTHERN PART OF IRIAN JAYA BORDER IN AREA WHERE IRIANESE REBELS HAD RECENTLY BEEN MOST ACTIVE AND WHERE REBELS HAVE SEIZED INDO HOSTAGES. HE SAID TROOPS WOULD "ARREST OR ASSIST IN THE ARREST" OF REBELS WHO MAY HAVE COME ACROSS BORDER. STATEMENT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY CLARIFIED TO MEAN COOPERATION BETWEEN MILITARY AND CIVILIAN FORCES, NOT BETWEEN PNG AND INDO FORCES.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER OLEWALE, SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AT SYDNEY AIRPORT JUNE 12, HAD A MORE MODERATE STAND, STATING THAT REBELS CROSSING BORDER WOULD BE URGED TO RETURN AND WOULD BE ARRESTED ONLY IF THEY FAILED TO DO SO. HE SAID THE PNG DEFENCE FORCE ALREADY HAD 30 MEN ASSIGNED TO ROUTINE BORDER PATROLS. EXTRA MEN WERE BEING ASSIGNED BECAUSE THE GPNG HAD RECEIVED INTELLIGENCE REPORTS THAT
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THE IRIANESE REBELS WHO CAPTURED INDONESIAN OFFICIALS LAST MONTH WERE MOVING TOWARDS THE BORDER AREA, HE SAID, AND GPNG WANTED TO BE SURE THEY DID NOT CROSS THE BORDER.

3. PHILIP BOURAGA, HEAD OF NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, STATED JUNE 13 THAT A TOTAL OF 139 MEN WOULD BE INVOLVED IN THE SEARCH, OF WHOM 120 WOULD BE MEMBERS OF THE

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SECOND PACIFIC ISLANDS REGIMENT AT MOEM BARRACKS, WEWAK,
AND 19 MEMBERS OF THE POLICE RIOT SQUAD.

4. INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR BUSIRI SURJOWINOTO HAS TOLD US
THAT MARTIN TABU, WHO SEIZED THE INDONESIAN
HOSTAGES, NEVER CROSSES THE BORDER, AND HE DID NOT BELIEVE
THE PNG RECONNAISANCE PATROLS WERE ATTEMPTING TO FIND
THE HOSTAGES. BUSIRI DID NOT HAVE ANY EXPLANATION OF
WHY PNG BORDER PATROLLING HAD BEEN SUDDENLY STEPPED UP.

5. COMMENT: ONE POSSIBLE EXPLANATION IS THAT THE GOI
HAD BROUGHT PRESSURE TO BEAR ON PNG FOREIGN MINISTER
OLEWALE ON HIS RECENT VISIT TO JAKARTA FOR JOINT PNG-
INDO PATROLS, AND GPNG, AFTER REFUSING TO PARTICIPATE
IN JOINT PATROLS DECIDED TO STEP UP THEIR OWN EFFORTS
TO FORESTALL FURTHER PRESSURE.
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Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 16 jun 1978
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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